

P-40: Systems Change in a Tribal Clinic

Venue: Tribal Community

Goal: Promoting Cessation of Tobacco Use

Sponsoring Organization: Puyallup Tribal Health Authority

Abstract: The Puyallup Tribal Health Authority (PTHA) has developed a clinic systems change strategy to treat nicotine dependence. In the first year of implementation, PTHA's office-based delivery system will be improved to effectively identify, track, and conduct intervention and follow-up with tobacco using patients. All patients over the age of six will be screened for tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke. The system uses the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) Brief Intervention Model for treating nicotine dependence, also known as the "5-A Model" (Ask, Assess, Advise, Assist, Arrange). PTHA plans to track each patient's progress through chart documentation. The goal of the project is to achieve a ten percent reduction in adult tobacco use among tribal clinic clients by 2006. Taking a thoughtful approach, and engaging staff at all levels of the organization, is key to the long-term success of this project.

Recommendations: Go Slow! Make sure you have the right people on the development team, including someone from each of the departments who is trusted and seen as a leader, and who will support implementing the system. Educate and get buy-in at all levels of the organization. Communicate your progress to the decision makers.

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